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Letter dated 6 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the National Reconciliation Conference in Somalia, issued on 30 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the National Reconciliation Conference in Somalia issued on 30 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the agreement signed on 29 January 2004 by all parties taking part in the "ten days consultation period" in Nairobi on outstanding issues concerning the Transitional Institutions for Somalia. Such agreement paves the way for moving to the third and final phase of the Conference, thus opening a window of opportunity to be seized upon without hesitation.

The European Union commends the efforts of Somali leaders to attain this fundamental outcome by overcoming their differences, and calls upon them to ensure that the same spirit of positive cooperation prevails during the third and final phase of the Conference, and that a comprehensive and all-inclusive solution is found to the long-lasting crisis in Somalia.

The European Union reiterates its full and continuing support to the IGAD-sponsored national reconciliation process, to which there is no alternative for the restoration of effective government, peace and stability in Somalia, and commends all IGAD member States for bringing about real progress within the process. In particular, the European Union praises the successful efforts of the current Chairman of IGAD, President Yoweri Museveni, the sustained engagement of President Mwai Kibaki and the tireless endeavours of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Stephen Musyoka, and the Presidency of the IGAD Facilitation Committee, as well as the continued presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Ali Abdi Farah. The European Union calls upon members of the IGAD Facilitation Committee to further their joint efforts and to assist in the successful conclusion of the final phase of the Conference.

The European Union stands ready to provide financial and technical support to a provisional all-inclusive, broad-based Government for Somalia.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.